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King Slayer Fails In New Trial Bid

JACKSON, Tenn. (UPI) — The Tennessee Supreme Court has refused to consider whether a new trial should be granted James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

King was killed in Memphis in 1968, and almost a year later, Ray pleaded guilty to the murder. He was sentenced to 99 years in the state penitentiary.

In seeking a new trial, Ray had contended unsuccessfully that he was coerced into pleading guilty to the murder of King by defense attorney Percy Foreman. Ray said that Foreman told him he could only escape the electric chair by pleading guilty.



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